

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE CARBON COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

This notice is given to the public, including those entitled to notice, pursuant to Utah Code Section 17-27a-204 and is being mailed to those entitled to notice under Utah Code Section 17-27a-204 (2).

Carbon County intends to consider amendments to its general plan to establish desired management classifications for Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) on the Manti La-Sal National Forest.

The public and affected entities are invited to review and comment on the draft general plan amendments. The documents (text and maps) will be available from the Building and Planning Department and on the Carbon County website at: www.carbon.utah.gov in advance of the meetings listed below:

The dates of public hearings in which the draft plan amendments will be considered are:

**October 2, 2018 @ 4:30 PM
October 17, 2018 @ 5:00 PM**

**County Planning Commission (recommendation)
Carbon County Commissioners**

All meetings and hearings will be held at the Carbon County Administration Building, 751 East 100 North Price, Utah.

For further information, contact Todd Thorne, Director of Planning, at (435) 636-3261. Or send comments to: Carbon County Planning, 751 East 100 North, Price, Utah 84501 or email todd.thorne@carbon.utah.gov. Persons needing special accommodations for these meetings should call Carbon County Planning at least 3 days in advance.

Published in ETV News: September 19, 2018

Published in Sun Advocate: September 18, 2018

(Proposed)
Amendment to the General Plan of Carbon County, Utah

Amending the Resource Management Plan
Section of The General Plan

The chapter of the County Resource Management Plan addressing forest and woodland management is amended to add the following:

**Carbon County's Resource Management Plan Specific to U.S. National Forest
Inventoried Roadless Areas Located in Carbon County**

I. Background

The U.S. Forest Service in 2001 promulgated a revised version of what is known as the Roadless Rule. Under the 2001 Roadless Rule the Forest Service established so-called Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) on 4,013,000 acres of Utah's 8,179,000 acres of National Forest lands.

Seven IRAs have been established on National Forest lands in Carbon County, identified as follows:

ID	NAME OF IRA	FOREST
6598	Nuck Woodward	Manti-La Sal
6613	Price River	Manti-La Sal
6802	Price River	Manti-La Sal

6869	Price River	Manti-La Sal
6894	Bennion Creek	Manti-La Sal
7379	Price River	Manti-La Sal
7386	Price River	Manti-La Sal

See Map # ____ depicting the seven National Forest IRAs in Carbon County.

II. Current Conditions: Problems of Improper Forest Management Found in all seven National Forest IRAs in Carbon County

- a. Much-needed regular and systematic forest management efforts have not taken place in Carbon County's seven IRAs.
- b. Tree stands throughout these IRAs are dense and overcrowded, lacking in diversity of age class and type and thus prone to, and in some cases have already succumbed to, catastrophic fire, bark-beetle and other insect infestation and disease.
- c. Policies and permits have been withdrawn that used to allow much-needed regular silvicultural thinning projects, projects to remove understory, and aspen regeneration projects in order to restore and improve forest health and fire resiliency as well as improve wildlife habitat and grazing forage for permitted livestock.
- d. The watersheds and springs of several Carbon County towns and communities are at serious risk of damage from erosion and silt runoff caused by the threat of catastrophic fire.
- e. Forest health, biodiversity and the surrounding wildland urban interface are all threatened. Road access by regular sized motor vehicles and general

maintenance permission have been restricted to the point that it is impossible to regularly clean and clear logs, brush, and other forest products out from rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways in Carbon County's National Forest IRAs.

- f. Such motorized and mechanized access has also been severely reduced making it impossible to regularly maintain, repair and upgrade town and city springs, streams, lakes and other municipal and agricultural water sources in the seven IRAs.
- g. Motorized access to key roads that existed after implementation of the 2001 Roadless Rule has been cut off pursuant to arbitrary Forest Service Travel Management Plans.
- h. Disbursed outdoor recreation has been cut back and concentrated into smaller and smaller areas, thus creating more stress and damage to those concentrated areas. The public's motorized access to these seven IRAs, once enjoyed for decades prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule, has been greatly curtailed.
- i. It is impossible to walk or ride a horse through many areas in the seven IRAs in Carbon County because of the buildup of fallen logs, other forest understory, and overcrowded trees.
- j. As forest health has declined throughout the seven IRAs, many areas have become more prone to invasive non-native plants.
- k. Clean air and clean water are threatened by the high risk of catastrophic fire.
- l. Water yield has decreased due to overgrowth of pinyon and juniper, decadent sagebrush and other woody vegetation.

III. Desired Future Conditions: Carbon County's Planned Remedies for the Problems Found in the seven National Forest IRAs in Carbon County

- a. Protect and preserve clean water, clean air, forest health, forest resiliency against catastrophic wildfires, and biological strongholds against disease and invasives:
 - 1. Allow and maintain reasonable motorized access by regular sized motor vehicles for the upkeep and maintenance of all town culinary water sources and agricultural water rights situated within any of the seven National Forest IRAs, and allow mechanized activities to perform such upkeep and maintenance.
 - 2. Allow and maintain reasonable motorized access by regular sized motor vehicles and use of needed mechanized equipment to regularly clean out, remove and and clear logs, brush, and other forest products from rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways in Carbon County's National Forest IRAs.
 - 3. In all seven IRAs, permit regular thin-cut logging, removal of the build-up of understory, and aspen regeneration where appropriate to achieve reasonable size and age class diversity of alpine stands, to increase resiliency and resistance to catastrophic wildfires, to permit the commercial removal of commercially viable timber after a fire, and to permit lop and scatter, bull-hogging and similar processes to remove the dense build up of pinyon and juniper and enhance wildlife habitat.
- b. Protect and enhance motorized public access and dispersed outdoor recreation:
 - 1. Restore disbursed outdoor recreation with reasonable motorized access to all seven of the IRAs, in order to lessen the stress and damage caused by non-dispersed camping in concentrated areas.

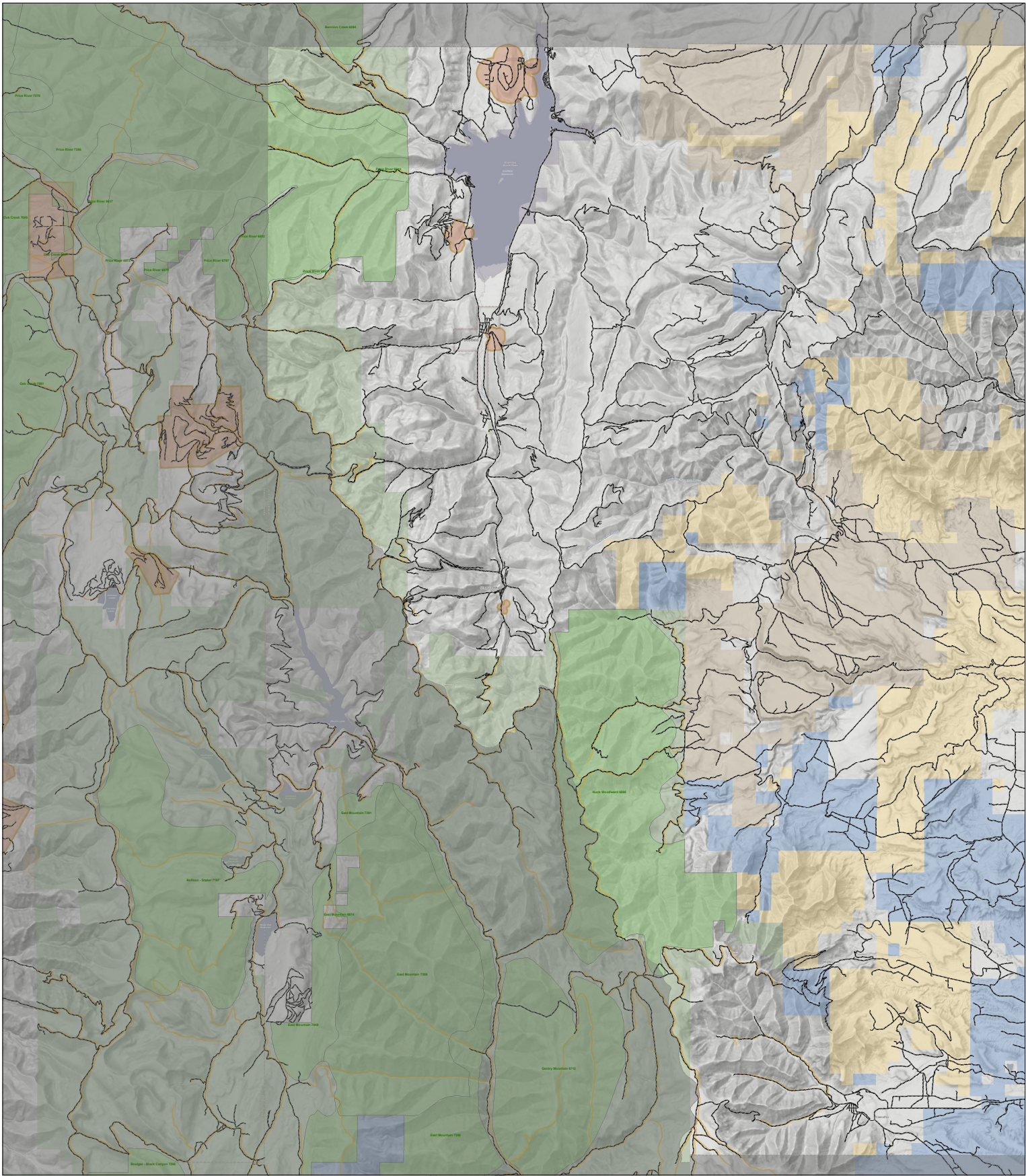
2. Provide reasonable opportunities for regular sized vehicles to access the IRAs for outdoor recreation so as to not discriminate against the disabled and others who are in need of motorized vehicular assistance to gain access.
3. Re-open, re-grade and do other needed maintenance for key roads that were once open to public access prior to the latest Travel Management Plan closures.

IV. Carbon County's Plan to Reclassify the Management Regime for All National Forest IRAs in Carbon County as ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREAS to Achieve the Remedies and Desired Future Conditions Planned in Section 3.0

- a.
 1. Reclassify all seven National Forest IRAs in Carbon County as National Forest *Active Management Areas*.
- b. Planned Suitable Uses and Activities in the *Active Management Areas* are as follows:
 1. Manage to avoid catastrophic wildfires and improve catastrophic fire resiliency;
 2. Manage for forest health (from bark-beetle and other diseases) and improved water yield and water quality, with the full range of silviculture techniques;
 3. Manage for intensive thin-cut timber and other wood products harvest with the full range of silviculture techniques;
 4. Manage for regular removal of pinyon and juniper buildup, with the full range of mechanized techniques;

5. Manage for grazing, with the goal to return to the highest reasonable level of active AUMs consistent with improved rangeland conditions;
6. Manage for clean culinary water sources for towns and communities, as well as maintenance and upkeep of agriculture water rights (dams, other impoundments, etc.) including access, permission and equipment use needed for the regular cleaning out and removal of logs, brush and other woody material from streams, creeks, rivers and other water bodies;
7. Manage for reasonable public motorized access (regular vehicles) and travel (temporary and permanent according to the need) per revisions to Forest Travel Plans.
8. Manage for mineral development (surface occupancy and where feasible directional drilling) as and where found to be commercially feasible, with sufficient reclamation stipulations and conditions;
9. Manage for dispersed public recreation and developed as deemed commercially viable and appropriate;
10. Manage for trail construction and/or reconstruction to enhance public outdoor recreation;
11. Manage for weed and pest control; and
12. Manage for mechanized equipment use as needed to realize the foregoing values.

Carbon - Inventoried Roadless Areas



Legend

Current 2018 Roads - AGRC	National Monument	SITLA
1995 Utah Roads in USFS	National Park	State Sovereign Land
Roadless Boundary	US Forest Service	State Parks
Inventoried Roadless Area	Wilderness	Wildlife Reserve
Wildlife Urban Interface	National Wildlife Refuge	Other State
BLM	Private	Tribal Lands
National Recreation Area		

